

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 133089
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
ICA-11 ACDA-12 AID-05 OMB-01 /097 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/SE:GWCHAPMAN
APPROVED BY EUR:REBARBOUR
EUR/SE:RCEWING
C:RHOPPER

-----111050 251040Z /11

R 250744Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 133089

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PEPR, CY

SUBJECT: CYPRUS COUNSELOR'S CALL ON EUR/SE DIRECTOR, MAY 23

1. DURING CALL ON EUR/SE DIRECTOR MAY 23, CYPRUS EMBASSY
COUNSELOR ANGELIDES DREW DEPARTMENT'S ATTENTION TO RECENT
ANNOUNCEMENT BY TURKISH CYPRIOTS THAT THEY HAD FORMED A
COMMITTEE TO PROCESS AND SETTLE CLAIMS FOR COMPENSATION
ARISING OUT OF THE 1974 TURKISH "PEACE OPERATION." THE
MANDATE OF THE COMMITTEE APPEARED TO EXTEND TO ANY AND ALL
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 STATE 133089

CLAIMS, BUT IT SEEMED CLEAR THAT FOREIGN NATIONALS WOULD
PRINCIPALLY BE INVOLVED. ANGELIDES SAID THAT THE GOC
REGARDED THIS NOT AS A SERIOUS EFFORT TO COMPENSATE THE
VICTIMS OF THE INVASION BUT RATHER AS A PROPAGANDA STUNT
DEVOID OF ANY REAL PURPOSE. THERE WAS SOLID INFORMATION
THAT THE TURKISH CYPRIOTS INDEED HAD ONLY VERY LIMITED FUNDS
WITH WHICH TO PAY CLAIMS. ANGELIDES SAID FURTHER THAT

FRIENDLY GOVERNMENTS WERE BEING ASKED BY THE GOC TO ADVISE THEIR CITIZENS NOT TO FILE CLAIMS WITH THIS NEW COMMITTEE, SINCE DOING SO WOULD IMPLY A FORM OF RECOGNITION OF THE "TFSC." THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT, HE NOTED, HAD ALREADY ISSUED A STRONG STATEMENT TO THE EFFECT THAT THEY WOULD NOT CO-OPERATE IN ANY WAY WITH THE COMMITTEE. IF ANY CLAIMS WERE TO BE MADE FOR LOSSES ARISING FROM THE INVASION, THEY SHOULD BE MADE TO THE GOVERNMENT OF TURKEY--THE PARTY ACTUALLY RESPONSIBLE.

2. DEPTOFFS SAID THAT THIS WAS THE FIRST THEY HAD HEARD OF SUCH A COMMITTEE BUT THAT THEY WOULD TAKE NOTE OF THE GOC'S POSITION. THEY EXPLAINED BRIEFLY THE PROCEDURES THAT WE HAVE FOLLOWED TO FILE CLAIMS MADE BY AMERICAN CITIZENS AND COMPANIES WITH THE TURKISH EMBASSY IN NICOSIA AND WITH THE TURKISH CYPRIOT AUTHORITIES, AND NOTED THAT A NUMBER OF COMMERCIAL CLAIMS HAD ALREADY BEEN SETTLED.

3. ANGELIDES SAID THAT HE HAD ALSO BEEN INSTRUCTED TO RAISE WITH THE DEPARTMENT THE STATEMENT MADE BY SECRETARY GENERAL LUNS AND THE NATO DEFENSE MINISTERS (AT THE RECENT DPC MEETING) EXPRESSING THE INTENT OF THE ALLIANCE TO IMPROVE THE MATERIAL READINESS OF THE TURKISH ARMED FORCES. (SIMILAR PROTESTS, HE NOTED, WERE BEING MADE TO OTHER MEMBERS OF NATO.) THE GOC WAS VERY DISAPPOINTED AT THIS STATEMENT, SINCE ANY ARMS AND EQUIPMENT GIVEN TO THE TURKS

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 133089

WOULD IN ITS VIEW BE UTILIZED TO SUSTAIN THE ILLEGAL OCCUPATION OF CYPRUS RATHER THAN TO ADVANCE THE DEFENSIVE PURPOSES OF THE ALLIANCE. IF NATO REALLY WISHED TO IMPROVE THE READINESS OF THE TURKISH ARMED FORCES, THEN IT WOULD BEST BE ADVISED TO CALL ON THE GOC TO CEASE WASTING RESOURCES IN CYPRUS. DEPTOFF RESPONDED THAT DPC STATEMENT WAS SUPPORTIVE OF AND CONSONANT WITH THE ADMINISTRATION'S PROGRAM FOR REPEAL OF THE TURKISH ARMS EMBARGO. HE DID NOT WANT TO REHEARSE ONCE AGAIN THE ARGUMENTS ON THIS SUBJECT.

4. ANGELIDES ALSO SPOKE STRONGLY IN FAVOR OF AN ECEVIT-KYPRIANOU MEETING, STRESSING THE INADEQUACY OF THE INTER-COMMUNAL CHANNEL AND THE NEED FOR DIRECT TALKS BETWEEN THE PRINCIPAL PROTAGONISTS (AS SEEN BY GOC). HE PRESSED FOR SOME ENCOURAGEMENT FROM DEPTOFFS. DEPTOFFS NOTED THE REASONS WHY ECEVIT HAD IN THE PAST REFUSED TO DEAL DIRECTLY WITH KYPRIANOU, AND SAID THAT THE INTERCOMMUNAL FORUM SEEMED TO US STILL TO REPRESENT THE BEST PATH TO A SETTLEMENT. DEPTOFF ALSO DREW ANGELIDES' ATTENTION TO DENKTASH STATEMENT OF MAY 22, COMMENTING THAT WE FELT THIS TO BE A POSITIVE AND ENCOURAGING SIGN OF TURKISH CYPRIOT FORTH-

COMINGNESS AND EXPRESSING HOPE THAT GREEK CYPRIOTS WOULD
STSPOND-IN A SIMILARLY POSITIVE FASHION. (COPY OF DENKTASH
STATEMENT AND OF DEPARTMENT COMMENT AT MAY 23 NOON BRVEFING
WERE GIVEN TO ANGELIDES.) DEPTOFF ALSO URGED, ALONG
FAMILIAR LINES, THAT GOC PUT TO TEST EXPRESSED TURKISH
READINESS TO NEGOTIATE IN EARNEST AND TAKE ADVANTAGE OF
WHAT MIGHT BE REAL OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE PROGRESS. COUNSELOR
NIMETZ MADE SIMILAR POINTS IN SEPARATE TELCONS MAY 23 WITH
AMBASSADOR DIMITRIOU AND MFA SEC GEN PELAGHIAS IN NEW YORK.
CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, COMMITTEE MEETINGS, PROPERTY WAR CLAIMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 may 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE133089
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: GWCHAPMAN
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780220-1119
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780518/aaaaapdy.tel
Line Count: 125
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 71a8ba96-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2565664
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CYPRUS COUNSELOR'S CALL ON EUR/SE DIRECTOR, MAY 23
TAGS: PGOV, PEPR, CY, US
To: NICOSIA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/71a8ba96-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014